

## Amendments to the Claims

A complete list of pending claims follows:

1.     **(Currently Amended)** A method for performing a firmware update on a device of a computer system, comprising the steps of:
  - saving a firmware update application and firmware to the computer system;
  - verifying that the firmware update application has the authority to perform the firmware update, wherein verifying comprises the step of determining whether the firmware update application has access to a predetermined encryption key utilized by the computer system;
  - encrypting validation data associated with the firmware update application and the firmware, wherein encrypting comprises the step of encrypting the validation data with a second encryption key that includes some content derived from an administrative password associated with the computer system;
  - restarting the computer system;
  - locating the firmware update application and the firmware;
  - decrypting the validation data; and
  - initiating the firmware update application.
2.     (Previously Cancelled).
3.     **(Currently Amended)** The method for performing a firmware update on a device of a computer system of claim 1, wherein the step of verifying that the firmware update application has the authority to perform the firmware update comprises the step of:
  - encrypting a token with [[a]] the predetermined encryption key, the result being a first encrypted token;
  - providing [[the]] an unencrypted token to the firmware update application;
  - encrypting the token at the firmware update application, the result being a second encrypted token;
  - comparing the first encrypted token and the second encrypted token; and
  - allowing the method for performing a firmware update to continue if the first encrypted token matches the second encrypted token.

4. (Previously Amended) The method for performing a firmware update on a device of a computer system of claim 1, wherein the predetermined encryption key is maintained by the BIOS of the computer system.

5. (Original) The method for performing a firmware update on a device of a computer system of claim 1, further comprising the steps of,  
setting a firmware update available flag following the step of encrypting the firmware update application and the firmware image; and  
initiating the firmware update application following a restart of the computer system only if it is determined that the firmware update available flag is set to true.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method for performing a firmware update on a device of a computer system of claim 1, wherein ~~the step of encrypting the validation data comprises the step of encrypting the validation data with an~~ the second encryption key ~~[[that]]~~ is comprised of a token provided by the BIOS that is appended to ~~[[an]]~~ the administrative password associated with the computer system.

8. (Original) The method for performing a firmware update on a device of a computer system of claim 1, wherein the firmware update application is DOS-based application.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for updating the firmware of a target device in a computer system, comprising the steps of:

providing a firmware update application and firmware update to the computer system;

verifying that the firmware update application is authorized to update the firmware of the target device, wherein verifying that the firmware update application is authorized comprises the step of verifying that the firmware update application is operable to encrypt a data string according to a predetermined encryption key utilized by the computer

system;

verifying that a user is authorized to update the firmware of the target device,  
wherein verifying that the user is authorized comprises the steps of:

prompting the user for a password; and

verifying that the password provided by the user is a predetermined user  
password;

encrypting validation data associated with the firmware update application and the  
firmware, wherein encrypting the validation data comprises the steps of:

forming a second encryption key, the second encryption key having  
content from the user password; and

encrypting the validation data with the second encryption key;

resetting the computer system;

recognizing that a firmware update is available;

decrypting the validation data; and

replacing the existing firmware of the target device with the firmware update.

10. (Previously Cancelled)

11. **(Currently Amended)** The method for updating the firmware of a target device  
in a computer system of claim 9, wherein the step of verifying that the firmware update  
application is authorized to perform the firmware update comprises the steps of,

encrypting a data string with [[a]] the predetermined encryption key, with the  
result being a first encrypted file;

passing an unencrypted version of the data string to the firmware update  
application;

encrypting at the firmware update application the data string with [[an]] the  
second encryption key, with the result being a second encrypted file; and

comparing the first encrypted file to the second encrypted file.

12. **(Canceled)**

13. **(Canceled)**

14. **(Original)** The method for updating the firmware of a target device in a computer system of claim 9, wherein the step of recognizing that a firmware update is available comprises the steps of,

setting a firmware update available flag; and

recognizing, following a reset of the computer system, that a firmware update available flag has been set to indicate that a firmware update is available.

15. **(Currently Amended)** The method for updating the firmware of a target device in a computer system of claim [[13]] 9, wherein the step of decrypting the validation data comprises the step of decrypting the validation data with the second encryption key.

16. **(Currently Amended)** A method for updating the firmware of a device of a computer system, comprising the steps of:

providing a firmware update to the computer system, the firmware update comprising a firmware update application and a firmware image;

verifying that the firmware update application is authorized to update the firmware of the device, wherein verifying comprises the step of verifying that the firmware update application has access to a predetermined encryption key utilized by the computer system;

encrypting validation data associated with the firmware update application and the firmware image, wherein encrypting comprises the step of encrypting the validation data with a second encryption key that includes some content derived from an administrative password associated with the computer system;

verifying that the user of the computer system is authorized to update the firmware of the device;

causing the computer system to recognize that a verified firmware update is available for the device of the computer system; and

executing the firmware update application to cause the firmware image to replace the existing firmware of the device.

17. (Original) The method for updating the firmware of a device of a computer system of claim 16, wherein the step of causing the computer system to recognize that a firmware update is available, comprises the steps of,

setting a firmware update available flag following the successful completion of the verification steps;

resetting the computer system; and

recognizing during the boot of the computer system that a firmware update available flag has been set.

18. (Previously Cancelled)

19. (**Currently Amended**) The method for updating the firmware of a device of a computer system of claim 16, wherein the step of verifying that the use of the computer is authorized to update the firmware of the device comprises the step of verifying that the user enters [[an]] the administrative password associated with the computer system.

20. (Original) The method for updating the firmware of a device of a computer system of claim 16, wherein the firmware update application is a DOS-based application.

21. (**Currently Amended**) A computer system, comprising:

a processor;

memory;

a device driven by firmware associated with the device;

wherein the computer system is operable to update the firmware of the device by,

receiving a firmware update application and firmware image;

verifying that the firmware update application is authorized to update the firmware of the device, wherein verifying comprises the step of verifying that the firmware update application has access to a predetermined encryption key utilized by the computer system;

encrypting validation data associated with the firmware update application

and the firmware image, wherein encrypting comprises the step of encrypting the validation data with a second encryption key that includes some content derived from an administrative password associated with the computer system;

verifying that the user of the computer system is authorized to update the firmware of the device;

setting a firmware update available flag if both the firmware update application and the user are authorized to update the firmware of the device; and

resetting the computer system;

executing the firmware update application to update the firmware of the device with the firmware image.